(d) Uniform rates and facilities all over India can be termed as One-India concept. "One India" involves a series of steps with a final objective of uniform and reduced call rates across the country. The Government has initiated following steps in this direction:

(i) The Dialing procedure was simplified between Kolkata and West Bengal, Mumbai and Maharashtra, Chennai and Tamil Nadu and in Uttar Pradesh.

(ii) Reduction in entry fee for National and International Long Distance service licences.

(iii) Reduction in licence fee for National and International Long Distance service and Very Small Aperture Satellite Terminal (V-SAT) commercial licences with effect from 1.1.2006.

(iv) The Access service providers have been permitted to provide Internet Telephony.

Steps are afoot to ensure that the Access Deficit Charge (ADC) is migrated to revenue share basis instead of fixed amount on per minute basis.

Sea Cable for International Call Traffic

2443 SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for a joint venture of MTNL and BSNL for setting up a sea cable for International Call Traffic; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the likely date of the commencement of the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to form joint venture of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for setting up submarine cable link for International Long Distance (ILD) service.

(b) This proposal is presently at conceptual stage.